functions will be provided to each cluster through an exclusive cluster based institution to which the Central Government will provide funds directly. Customised programmes will be developed for each cluster after a detailed survey and requirement analysis.

The welfare scheme titled 'Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana' envisages to cover 10.00 lakh weavers during the current financial year and 20.00 lakh weavers in the next financial year which would cover the renewal cases also of the current financial year. The scheme would provide life insurance cover to weavers for cases of accidental or natural death or disabilities. The scheme is being implemented in collaboration with LIC.

The 'Health Insurance Scheme', also a welfare scheme, envisages to cover 3.00 lakh weavers both during the current as well as next financial year. The scheme aims at financially enabling the weavers community to access the best of healthcare facilities in the country.

Under the Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme, Sonepur and Bargarh in Orissa have been identified for development. Under the 2 welfare schemes assistance to the weavers, including those of Orissa, would be imparted on the basis of viable proposals received from the State Governments.

Proposal to reduce duty on textile items

129. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though quota regime in textile sector being lifted, high rate of duty comes in the way of growth in the textile sector in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reduce duty on the textile items?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The fiscal duty structure in textile sector has been rationalized considerably during the Budget 2004-05 and 2005-06. As a result there have been positive indications of accelerated growth in investment in the textile sector.